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CBS says others criticized general

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NEW YORK — Reading from a thick stack of press stories and congressional testimony excoriating Gen. William C. Westmoreland, an attorney for CBS yesterday sought to prove that the general's reputation was so tarnished that the network could not have libeled him in a 1982 documentary.

At the same time, attorney David Boies also continued to pressure Westmoreland on his reporting of enemy troop strengths to higher-ups in 1967. He elicited several inconsistencies from Westmoreland as he sought to prove that Westmoreland distorted both the size of the enemy and U.S. progress in the war during a visit to Washington in November 1967.

Boies' wide-ranging presentation came as he began summarizing Westmoreland's five days of cross-examination in the trial of the general's \$120 million libel suit against CBS.

The cross-examination is expected to end today. Westmoreland sat calmly as Boies read quotations accusing him of engaging in "a string of lies" and a "squalid deception" while directing "a numbers game" that produced "dubious" intelligence.

Decade-old newspaper and magazine headlines cited Westmoreland's alleged role in producing "Faked Data" and "False Data" that helped produce a "Vietnam Pearl Harbor."

Westmoreland steadfastly denied being aware of most of the press articles, which stemmed from the 1975 investigation of U.S. intelligence in Vietnam by the House Select Committee on Intelligence. The essence of the committee's criticism of Westmoreland, and the press reporting it engendered, was repeated in the CBS Reports documentary that accused Westmoreland of improprieties.

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